

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1 1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for reassembling a packet by a network de-  
2 vice, the method comprising the steps of:  
3       locating a fragment packet descriptor associated with the packet; and  
4       placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor asso-  
5 ciated with the packet.
- 1 2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of locating a fragment packet  
2 descriptor associated with the packet further comprises:  
3       locating an entry in a reassembly table associated with the packet; and  
4       dereferencing a pointer held in the entry to locate the fragment packet descriptor.
- 1 3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
2       receiving a request to reassemble the packet.
- 1 4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3 wherein the request comprises:  
2       an index to an entry in a reassembly table that is associated with the first fragment  
3 of the packet; and  
4       a length value that is a count of the total number of entries in the reassembly table  
5 that are associated with the packet.
- 1 5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
2       deallocating the fragment packet descriptor.
- 1 6. (ORIGINAL) A computer readable medium that includes computer executable in-  
2 structions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

- 1 7. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus for reassembling a packet, the apparatus comprising:  
2 means for locating a fragment packet descriptor associated with the packet; and  
3 means for placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet de-  
4 scriptor associated with the packet.
- 1 8. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:  
2 means for locating an entry in a reassembly table associated with the packet; and  
3 means for dereferencing a pointer held in the entry to locate the fragment packet  
4 descriptor.
- 1 9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:  
2 means for receiving a request to reassemble the packet.
- 1 10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:  
2 means for deallocating the fragment packet descriptor.
- 1 11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for reassembling a packet by a network de-  
2 vice, the method comprising the steps of:  
3 receiving a plurality of fragments associated with the packet;  
4 determining if all the fragments for the packet have been received; and  
5 issuing a request to reassemble the packet to a reassembly assist function if all the  
6 fragments for the packet have been received.
- 1 12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein the request comprises:  
2 an index to an entry in a reassembly table that is associated with the first fragment  
3 of the packet; and  
4 a length value that is a count of the total number of entries in the reassembly table  
5 that are associated with the packet.

1 13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining if all frag-  
2 ments for the packet have been received further comprising:  
3 examining a bit map that indicates whether or not the fragments have been re-  
4 ceived.

1 14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:  
2 tracking a fragment of the packet.

1 15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of tracking a fragment of the  
2 packet further comprising the steps of:  
3 keeping a copy of a packet handle associated with the fragment in a reassembly  
4 table; and  
5 maintaining a location in a bit map that indicates whether or not the fragment has  
6 been received.

1 16. (ORIGINAL) A computer readable medium containing computer executable instruc-  
2 tions for performing the method recited in claim 11.

1 17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for reassembling a packet, the apparatus  
2 comprising:  
3 means for receiving a plurality of fragments associated with the packet;  
4 means for determining if all the fragments for the packet have been received; and  
5 means for issuing a request to reassemble the packet to a reassembly assist func-  
6 tion if all the fragments for the packet have been received.

1 18. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:  
2 means for examining a bit map that indicates whether or not the fragments have  
3 been received.

1 19. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:

2 means for tracking a fragment of the packet.

1 20. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising:

2 means for keeping a copy of a packet handle associated with the fragment in a  
3 reassembly table; and

4 means for maintaining a location in a bit map that indicates whether or not the  
5 fragment has been received.

1 21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for reassembling a packet, the system com-  
2 prising:

3 a processor; and

4 a reassembly assist configured to communicate with the processor;

5 whereby the processor receives a plurality of fragments associated with the packet, de-

6 termines if all the fragments for the packet have been received and issues a request to re-  
7 assemble the packet to the reassembly assist to reassemble the packet.

1 22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for reassembling a packet, the method  
2 comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor associated  
4 therewith;

5 placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a reassembly table asso-  
6 ciated with the packet; and

7 in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, issuing a request to a re-  
8 assembly assist function.

1 23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step  
2 of:

3 determining if all fragments have been received.

1 24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A network device for reassembling a packet, compris-  
2 ing:

3 means for receiving a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor asso-  
4 ciated therewith;

5 means for placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a reassembly  
6 table associated with the packet; and

7 in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, means for issuing a re-  
8 quest to a reassembly assist function.

1 25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:  
2 means for determining if all fragments have been received.

1 26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system for reassembling a packet, comprising:

2 a processor receives a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor asso-  
3 ciated therewith;

4 a reassembly assist configured to communicate with the processor, the reassembly  
5 assist adapted to locate the fragment packet descriptor associated with the packet;

6 the processor configured to store a reassembly table, the reassembly table storing  
7 the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor; and

8 in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, the processor issues a re-  
9 quest to a reassembly assist function.

1 27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step  
2 of:

3 the reassembly assist determines if all fragments have been received.

1 28. (CANCELLED)

1 29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable media, comprising:

2           said computer readable media having instructions written thereon for execution on  
3   a processor for the practice of reassembling a packet, comprising,  
4           receiving a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor associated  
5   therewith;  
6           placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor ~~in a packet descriptor~~ in a  
7   reassemble table associated with the packet; and  
8           in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, issuing a request to a re-  
9   assembly assist function.

1   30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for reassembling a packet, the method  
2   comprising the steps of:  
3           receiving a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor associated  
4   therewith;  
5           placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a reassemble table asso-  
6   ciated with the packet; and  
7           in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, issuing a request to a re-  
8   assembly assist function; the reassemble function:  
9           locating fragments in a fragment packet descriptor, and  
10          reassembling the packet in response to a pointer in the reassemble table.